

Date: March 17, 2010

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Place: MSU Extension Bay County, Third Floor, Large Conference Room

Member(s) Present:

Mary Jo Brandt

Patti DuBay

Lyle LeCronier

Philip Engelhardt

Marybeth Laisure

Doug Rise

Member(s) Excused:

George Heron

Bill Palmer

Barb Wishowski

Others Present:

Ann Arnold, FCS Extension Educator

Judy Delestowicz, Administrative Assistant

Margaret LaShore, SNAP Regional/Statewide Reporting Educator

Jan Rise, Master Gardener Volunteer Program Coordinator

Jodi Schulz, 4-H Youth Development Extension Educator

Howard Wetters, County Extension Director

INFORMATION PRESENTED AND DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

Doug Rise called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from the January 20, 2010, meeting was approved without corrections.

Additions to the Agenda: Ms. Jan Rise, market master, will give a presentation on 2009 activities for the Downtown Bay City Farmer's Market tonight.

Old Business:

Under the agenda item of MSU Extension restructuring, Mr. Wetters gave an update to date. Placement of directors for the four new Institutes have been announced. MSU Extension is waiting to make a formal public announcement until all of the 13 new district coordinator positions are filled by the end of March. Still unsure of how things will "play out," but no other real announcements to relay.

The draft letter supporting continuation of MSU Extension - Bay county programs from Extension Council to MSU Extension administration was reviewed. It was agreed that those Council members present would sign a blank sheet of paper to have their signatures put into a PDF format, to be included in the final formatted letter. Mr. Wetters would get signatures of those Council members who could not attend tonight's meeting. If approved, the draft would go through at least one more

edit for grammar and formatting.

It was moved, supported, and carried to send the letter of support corrections of content.

New Business:

Mr. Wetters introduced the new needs assessment process. This issues identification process is performed, with the help of local Extension Councils and community partners, every few years and helps MSU Extension set future programming efforts. MSU Extension is trying a different information collection venue. Instead of face-to-face meetings, an interactive Website using discussion boards is being set up. More details will be provided as they are sent from campus.

At 5:45 p.m., Ms. Jan Rise gave a presentation on the Downtown Bay City Farmer's Market (DBCFCM). The Powerpoint presentation focused on the Rapid Assessment Report done over the summer of 2009. Opening day is for spring market is scheduled for May 27, 2010, and will run from 10 a.m. till 3:30 p.m. New in 2010, DBCFCM will accept Michigan WIC EBT (Bridge) cards, as part of the Michigan Farmer's Market Food Assistance (MIFMA) Partnership pilot program. Ms. Rise is very excited to be able to offer this service to eligible residents in our community. Ms. Rise will be presenting on how farmers can sign up to accept EBT cards at farm stands and markets for a MIFMA Webinar tomorrow.

Ms. Barb Wishowski stated she plans on putting an article in the upcoming Farm Bureau newsletter about the DBCFCM.

Program Area Reports:

Ms. Jan Rise, Master Gardener volunteer program coordinator, said that the 2010 winter Master Gardener class series is being held with 14 Master Gardener trainees in attendance. This class session has great instructors and is well received by the trainees. A Master Gardener conference is being planned this summer at the campus level, and local Master Gardener associations are being approached to support the seminars.

Ann Arnold, Extension educator, gave an update on the six-hour Great Start to Quality program sessions she is providing relative care providers in Saginaw, Flint, and Bay counties. A possible three-year agreement to continue to provide this training is being discussed, which could be expanded to offering education to licensed day care providers.

Under the breastfeeding program, SVSU nursing students are job shadowing Kim Langley, BFI program associate, to learn how MSU Extension delivers breastfeeding education and support. In addition, 17 student nurses worked as volunteers of our breastfeeding friendly diaper bag project. Ms. Arnold provided CPR and first aid training to the Bay County Breastfeeding Club participants. A

reminder that the Breastfeeding Walk is scheduled for August 2010.

Karen Parker, SNAP program associated, continues to provide nutrition education in the local schools. This week, Ms. Parker used a new delivery method by providing a "field trip" to Mijer's with her Behavioral Health clients where they were able to go grocery shopping with her to make better nutrition choices.

MSU Extension Bay and Arenac County staff collaborated in providing nutrition education to 8th grade Pinconning students at their most recent health fair.

Ms. Arnold continues to use Building Strong Families curriculum to deliver parenting education to DHS clients referred to her through the Strong Families, Safe Children grant. She also continues to work with parent groups through the Bay City and Bay County school systems.

Mr. Wetters introduced the OrganWise Guys curriculum. Mr. Wetters talked about how the learning kits will be available for teachers to use in their classrooms. This interactive program uses puppet-like characters to teach organs of the body (Sir Rebrum, Peri Stolic, Calci M. Bone, etc.) and to make good nutrition and physical activity choices through science, math, and nutrition activities. In addition, teacher time can be used toward match effort under our SNAP nutrition grant. Blue Cross, Blue Shield Healthy Communities grant applications have been sent in for consideration for three elementary schools in the Bangor school system. Tracking results and outcomes would be a collaboration with the Bangor schools, the Bay County Health Department, and MSU Extension - Bay County. There was much discussion between Council on this fun and inventive learning tool for pre-K through 5th grade youth.

Mr. Wetters offered staffing changes under the breastfeeding program. Ms. Margaret Ervin will be retiring after 13 years of service to MSU Extension at the end of April. Ms. Ervin was one of the first BFI peer counselors hired under the statewide Mother-To-Mother breastfeeding advocacy educational program. Also, Ms. Kimberly Langley may be leaving MSU Extension - Bay County to take care of home and family at the end of May. Mr. Wetters hopes to have find her some part-time hours, if he can talk her into it! Ms. Langley is involved in the Breast Feeding Coalition, facilitates the Bay County Breast Feeding Club, and is the originator of the breastfeeding friendly diaper bag project. In addition to these staffing changes, Mr. Wetters is moving forward to create and post a new position under this program. An Extension program instructor position will have the ability to act similarly to an Extension educator, but with out some higher level responsibilities.

As far as other staffing levels, there are no intern positions expected unless funding will be available through MIWorks! as it was in 2009. There are some limited regional MSU Extension funding opportunities, which may be considered for an intern at the market (DBCFCM). Ms. Rise offered that DBCFCM is looking at applying for a "Cool City Initiative" intern through MSHDA to support the market. If successful, a college student from U of M, Wayne State would be assigned during

the summer season.

Ms. Jodi Schulz gave an update on 4-H events. The annual Livestock Association 4-H spaghetti dinner fundraiser was a success. Thanks to all who came out in support! All proceeds go toward barn improvements.

This year's Leader of the Year is Patti DuBay, which was announced at the annual 4-H leader banquet. Kudos to Ms. DuBay!

4-H youth volunteers continue to work on the breastfeeding-friendly diaper bag project. To make it even easier to work on this collaborative sewing project (4-H and the Breast Feeding Initiative (BFI) under the SNAP-Ed grant), events are also being planned around and with the 4-H archery club meets at the Bay City Bowmans Club. This way youth can have the opportunity to "shoot" and "sew." allows volunteer effort (time) to go toward federal match funding.

Bay County 4-H will have a float in this year's St. Patrick's Day parade. April 1, 2010, is the deadline for youth to become a member who can participate in this year's fair.

April 14 is slated for the next Horsemanship for Handicappers (HFH) riding program. Horse Council is introducing a new equine clinic for youth and adults, which will replace it Shaggy Spring Fling program.

Mr. Wetters offered that the Bay County Juvenile Home approached our 4-H Youth Development staff to offer Why Try curriculum to its residents. MSU Extension - Bay County and the Juvenile Home director are entering into conversations with Bay County to fund the training and curriculum expense. The train-the-trainer event would be sometime in late April.

Ms. Schulz stated that she and Ms. Langley have been asked to present at the North Central Cooperative Extension Association (NCCEA) conference on their collaborate efforts under the breastfeeding friendly diaper bag sewing project this October. MSU Extension - Bay County successfully bid for a 4-H Participation Fee grant in the amount of \$2,500 for sewing machines, learn-to-sew educational materials, and sewing accessories; which will support the breastfeeding friendly diaper bag project and teach youth sewing skills. The NCCEA is a 12-state regional association from Ohio to the Dakotas, Michigan to Missouri.

Ms. Schulz and Ms. Jan Rise have collaborated on submitting a grant through Syngenta, which is for gardening materials to support establishing a vegetable garden at the Bay County Juvenile Home. They will know soon if it has been awarded. Master Gardener volunteers will help provide the educational portion of the project. They may also submit a grant application to the local Rotary Club for the same project.

Ms. Schulz announced the birth of baby Alyana, the newest edition to the family of Ms. Jodi Wrzesinski, 4-H program assistant. All are doing fine! Ms. Wrzesinski will be on leave until mid-April.

Under Agriculture and Natural Resources, Mr. Wetters said that a bean plot is planned at Varner's farm; but no any "body" to support other Ag plots in Bay County. Some discussion on coverage shortfall in this program area in Bay County. Hopefully that personnel can be gained through the restructuring process.

Under Community and Economic Development, Mr. Wetters is continues to work with NOAA on wind energy discussion programs. A survey is planned to be mailed to interested parties, where follow up meetings will be based on the survey results.

Ms. Arnold offered that she has been invited to attend a four-day training academy on training for the social and emotional pyramid model in April, held in Florida, by the Great Start Orientation Collaborative.

With no other items to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 6:50p.m.

ACTION TAKEN

- Moved, supported, and carried to approve the January 2010 meeting minutes.
- Moved, supported, and carried to send letter of support to MSU Extension and MSU administration.

FOLLOW UP NEEDED

- Mail support letter on behalf of Extension Council to MSU Extension administration: Extension director, assistant Extension directors, MSU dean and provost.

Prepared by J. Delestowicz